

ABSTRACT

(Fig. 2)

The invention concerns a switching apparatus comprising a
5 low order switch subtended from a high order switch. In
order to compensate for delays incurred by passing a data
frame through the high order switch to the low order
switch and delays incurred by the operation of the low
order switch, the apparatus is arranged to advance the
10 payload of a received data frame with respect to the fixed
overhead of the data frame by an amount corresponding to
the incurred delays. The low order switch uses the
advanced payload to create an output frame, for sending to
the high order switch, which is advanced with respect to
15 the data frame that it receives. The apparatus, which is
particularly suitable for use in SDH and/or SONET systems,
obviates the need to provide an alignment apparatus, such
as a VT/TU aligner between the high order switch and the
subtended low order switch.